

by the exiles who fled from Torquernada. The name,¹ for which we have to be content with a less picturesque derivation than was claimed for it by the man who has made it so famous, is equally consistent either with a Spanish or a Levantine origin. It was only after his arrival in England that Benjamin D'Israeli, the grandfather, began to write it with the D'. His father was one Isaac Israeli, of whom we know nothing besides, and Israeli, it would appear, is an Arabic word meaning Israelite, which from its constant application to individual Jews by the non-Jewish population in Moorish Spain and in the Levant frequently developed into a permanent surname. Thus all that our positive knowledge amounts to is that the D'Israelis were of the seed of Abraham, and that they came proxirnately from Italy, a land which has produced so many more than its due allotment of the world's great statesmen and rulers.

The circumstances of the young immigrant who came to London to seek his fortune were in all likelihood humble enough, and we need not suppose that when he set out for England the security of the Hanoverian dynasty figured very largely in his calculations. He was content to begin as a clerk in an Anglo-Italian house, and though he presently established himself in a business of his own as an Italian merchant, it was long before real prosperity came to him. To vary the monotony of his business as a merchant he tried experiments in the stock market; but these at first were unfortunate, and though eventually he won a good position as a stockbroker, and even became a member of the Stock Exchange Committee, he was for a time involved in serious difficulties. In 1765, however, he married, as

¹ The whole question, of Disraeli origins has been examined with much learning and industry by Mr. Lucien Wolf in two articles contributed to *The Times* on the occasion of the Disraeli centenary in 1904, to which I am indebted for several of the facts here given.